NOVEMBER 12.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Forty-eight persons present.

A paper entitled "Description of a New Species of Dolabella, from the Gulf of California, with remarks on other rare or little known species from the same locality," by R. E. C. Stearns, was presented for publication.

On Donax fossor.—Prof. LEIDY remarked that last July, while on a visit to Cape May, N. J., he had observed on the beach, near low tide, east of the town, in many positions, vast numbers of the little lamellibranch mollusk, *Donax fossor*, of Say. It is well named the "Digger" from the ease and rapidity with which it digs its way into the sand by means of its powerful foot. It lives in the surface sand, and is uncovered by the surf breaking on shore, but instantly buries itself again as the waves retire. In some places the little Digger was so abundant, that large patches reminded him "of barley grains lying on a malting floor," and they lay so thick as actually to interfere with one another in the attempt to bury themselves. As indicated by Mr. Say they present two varieties; one in which the shell is white, the other in which it is straw-colored. The shells generally exhibit an interior livid tint in three rays, successively widening from before backward. The rays are sometimes feeble or nearly obsolete; the anterior one is the most persistent, and the posterior one least so. The siphons are long and actively protruded and retracted, looking in their movements like wriggling worms. The Digger affords a bountiful supply of food to shore birds and fishes.

As is so frequently the case with crowded communities, the Digger is much infested with parasites. From half a dozen to several dozen Flukes are found in the liver, and a ciliated infusorian in the branchial cavity.

The Fluke is a minute larval *Distomum*, with the following characters: oval, obovate, clavate, or nine-pin like; head rounded with a conspicuous nipple-like papilla on each side (which, when seen in the lateral view of the animal, gives the appearance of a beak to the head); tail obtuse, with a minute terminal pore. Integument finely granulate, the granules arranged in alternating transverse series. Oral acetabulum twice the size of the ventral, which is central or nearly so. Mouth large, unarmed; pharynx minute, with a short, narrow gullet, ending in two pouch-like stomachs, which extend to the ventral acetabulum. A distinct body cavity, with no other contained organs than those just men-

tioned. A small orifice occupies the median line nearly midway between the acetabula; but no appearance of generative apparatus. Length of animal in the contracted state .24 mm.; width .15mm.; length in the elongated state to .36 and .42 mm.; width .09 mm. Oral acetabulum .072 mm.; ventral acetabulum .042 mm. The species may be named *Distomum cornifrons*.

It is probable that this little Fluke undergoes its further development in some of the shore birds or fishes which use the *Donax fossor* as food.

The infusorian infesting the Digger is a *Trichodina*, resembling that which is found on the *Hydra* or fresh water polyp, and which is also stated by Stein to live on the gills of the Pike and the fins of the Stickleback. The Trichodine is bell-shaped, with a wreath of cils near the top, and a circle of cils at the margin beneath. It is .048 mm. broad and from .035 to .036 mm. high. Though living on a marine mollusk, it too nearly resembles the *Trichodina pediculus* of fresh-water animals for him to think of giving it another name.

Dimorphism in Mitchella repens.—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN referred to note published in the Proceedings many years ago, in regard to dimorphic flowers in *Mitchella repens*, and suggesting that the plant was practically dicœcious. Three years ago he found a variety on the Wissahickon with snow-white berries; the plant, judging by the size of the patch, having been growing and bearing there many years. Some of this was removed to his garden, where, though it blossoms freely, it bears no berries, thus indicating that it was fertilized when in its wild state by the pollen from the normal scarlet berried forms in the vicinity, and that it is incapable of making use of its own pollen.

NOVEMBER 19.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Forty-two persons present.

Notices of Gordius in the Cockroach and Leech.—Prof. LEIDY exhibited a Gordius, which had been submitted to him by Dr. Robert Meade Smith, of this city, with the note that "a servant killed a large cockroach (*Blatta orientalis?*) in the kitchen, and threw it into a tumbler of water, and had then noticed, as she described it, one of its legs growing and swimming off." The Gordius is nine inches long, chocolate brown, with darker spots of the same, attenuated anteriorly with the head rounded, and the tail spiral and at the end slightly compressed and roundly truncated. Thickness of the worm anteriorly $\frac{1}{5}$th of a line; posteriorly $\frac{2}{5}$ths of a line. The species is probably *Gordius aquaticus*.